error causes the quantity of the syllable & the majesty of poetic metre to be perverted. As who should say in the first Eclogue of Virgil:—

Spem gregis, ache, scilice in nuda connixa reliquit.

And in the second:—

Ache, Corydon, Corydon; quæ te dementia cœpit?

And in the sixth:—

Ache, virgo infelix; quæ te dementia cœpit?*

* *Eclogue* I, 15; II, 69; VI, 47; *the true reading being 'Ah' in each case.*

THIS would be to ruin the style and the metrical quantity of the King of Latin Poets, and for this reason we must pronounce *Ah,* & *Vah,* almost like A, a vowel issuing in full volume from the depths of the stomach.

AS I have said, the aspirate is not a letter; none the less it is, by poetic license, given place as a letter, &, as it were, a double consonant, lengthening the quantity of the vowel that precedes it. As we find in Virgil, in the first book of the *Æneid,*

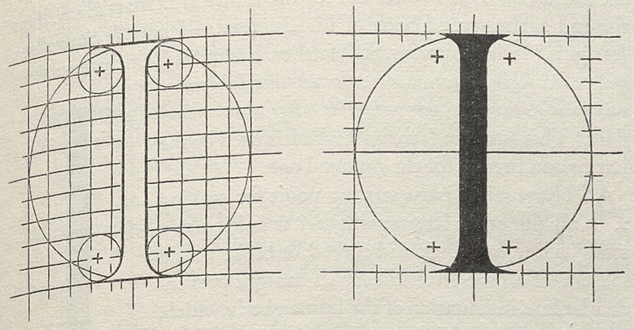
Posthabita colluisse Samo, hic illius arma
Hic currus fuit.†

† I, 16.

mo hic is a spondee, that is to say, a metrical foot containing two long syllables; wherefore *mo* is long in this place, not only by its nature, but as if *h* were a double consonant; and it cannot be combined with the vowel, as it often is. It appears as a simple consonant in the *Ars Poetica* of Horace, where it is said: *Cogitat, vt speciosa dehinc miracula promat.*‡ The syllable before the aspirate is the third syllable of a dactyl, and short, and the *de* does not combine with the *i* following the aspirate. For him who would like to see the great value of the aspirate, as well at the beginning of words, as in the middle and at the end, very fully and gracefully set forth, Pontanus is a most satisfying author, in two excellent books that he has diligently composed, entitled *De Aspiratione.* To design and draw our said aspirate as it should be done, the two legs must be made in every respect like I, and the cross-stroke upon the central horizontal line must be of one-third of the thickness of the said I. Which rule Frere Lucas Paciolus does not observe in the letters of his book entitled *Diuina Proportione,* as those can see who may choose to look carefully.§ For in the A, the E, the F, and the H, he makes the cross-strokes too thin and too low, inasmuch as he puts them half above and half below the central horizontal line of his square.

‡ *Verse* 144.

§ *See Note* 26.



THE letter I here designed & drawn, in height ten times its thickness, contained between four centres, is three units broad at the head, & four at the foot,—that is to say, three whole ones, as at the head, and a half one on each side, to give it a firm seat and foundation, the better to support the head. And the reason therefor is derived from the natural posture of the human body, which, when it is on its feet, has its feet spread out over more space than the breadth of the head covers. A man stands more firmly when his feet are half-way apart, than when they are close together. So, then, our I must be broader at the foot than at the head.

AS I said many times in the Second Book, is the pattern, the rule, and the standard of all the other letters, for by its height & breadth, all the limbs, straight or curved, of all the said other letters are measured and proportioned. The curved limbs follow the O; but even the O retains the thickness of the I in its two curved sides.

I Should be pronounced, as Martianus Capella says, *Spiritu prope dentibus pressis;* that is to say, with the breath issuing between the partly closed teeth. The Flemings misuse it in Latin when another vowel comes after E. For they pronounce the E like an E and Y, as in saying: *Deyus, Deyus, meyus, ad te de luce vigilo.* In Greek it is called *Iota* and is never aught else than a vowel; but in Latin and French it is sometimes a vowel and sometimes a consonant. And again, when it is a consonant it is sometimes a simple and sometimes a double consonant. Example in Latin: *Ibo iussus in maiorum adiutorium.* Example in French: *Item, Iehan le ieune sera ieudi adiourne.** This vowel *Iota* was stolen by

* *This discussion is, of course, academic merely, since the adoption of* J *for* I *consonant.*

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